

	MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM  CHILD CARE CENTERS POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL	ISSUED  3/91	REVISED  1/16	CHAPTER  1	SECTION  1.1
CHAPTER Chapter 1. Introduction		SUBJECT General			

Good nutrition, the development of desirable eating habits, and learning about food choices are vital building blocks for young children. Provisions must be made to ensure that these building blocks are in place in order to promote good health throughout life. Growing numbers of young children receive a significant proportion of their food in child care settings.

Those responsible for feeding children in child care centers have a great and important responsibility:

- To serve wholesome and attractive meals that meet children's nutritional needs;
- To make meal time a pleasant and sociable experience; and
- To not charge or collect payment for the meals served to Program participants.

Sharing in the responsibility is the staff of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The CACFP is a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) program which is administered by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services – Bureau of Community Food and Nutrition Assistance (CFNA).

Together, the CFNA and child care providers can maintain a commitment of high quality care. This policy and procedure manual is designed to give child care providers instructions on how to operate the CACFP and serve wholesome and attractive meals that meet the nutritional needs of the children in their care.

Ref: 7CFR 226.17